

ABSTRACT

A method and system for automatically selecting a software input method and/or adjusting the keys displayed on a software input panel of a software input method based on the state of an application program, such as corresponding to the currently focused field in which data is to be entered. An application communicates with a software input method manager to provide the software input method manager with information related to a desired input method, or the manager otherwise obtains the state information. Based on the state, an input panel is displayed that automatically changes its keyboard layout and key meanings based on what the user is likely to need, thereby increasing convenience and/or usability of the input system. The keys' appearances and/or their underlying meanings can be dynamically configured based on previously-entered user data, such as maintained and sent by the application program or maintained by the software input method manager.